

Magara Falls, U. C. 29 June 1836

My dear Doctor, Thus far I have proceeded safely on my Journey, the wretched roads to the contrary notwithstanding. The incessant rains have deluged the country & the water stands upon the surface of the clay in these parts, so as to render walking perfect misery. You have seen this magnificent Cataract, so that I am spared the necessity of wearing you with my version of the oft-told Tale. I therefore proceed at once to Botany in general, & Carex in particular. The weather has been such, since I left N.Y., as to preclude the possibility of my doing much, & indeed I only marvel that I have done any thing at all. I devoted a whole day at Auburn (during only a part of which it rained) to the examination of my locality for *C. Careyana* - I found it in great abundance in the old spot, but I fear that the "improvements" have devoted the lovely little wood to entire destruction in the course of another year. Already has the sound of the impious axe reverberated thro' the "Solitude of the Sacred grove". Judge of my grief & indignation! when I saw a part of my wood chopped down & the brush piled in heaps to carry fire & desolation amongst the luxuriant and lonely Carices with which it abounds!! But I forbear the subject, as the contemplation of it is too horrible. *C. Careyana* is perfectly distinct from *C. plantaginifolia* & from all other species with which I am acquainted. It is unnecessary to contrast it specifically with any other than *C. plantaginifolia* with which however when once known, it will never be confounded. The wood is very full of this latter species also, but I never once stooped to it in error, nor indeed could such a mistake be made by any Botanist who had the 2 species growing before him. *C. plantaginifolia* was as I noticed it in 1832, at least a fortnight earlier than my plant. This year all the seeds had dropped, nor could I find a single

I have determined to visit your office at seven o'clock if you will, at 7:00
and soon as you get this, I will be there. Please tell Mother that I will be there at 7:00.

Specimens of which the seeds had not fallen amongst the
hundreds I examined. The more striking or popular Char-
acters are as follows. My plant has much longer & much
narrower leaves, than C. plant. The leaves are of a much
darker green & smooth seven between the ribs, whereas
in C. plant. the parenchyma is always loose & appears
blistered presenting inequalities on both surfaces. In
C. plant. the leaves are acute, in my plant they taper
by a long & gradual acumination. The bract on my
plant is always green, long & foliaceous, being also
sharply acuminate, & never even approaching the
short, coloured, obtuse bract of C. plant. I observe
nothing between" or any comparison of these uniform
characters. In fact I could recognize the difference
at some yards distance. My plant makes much
larger tufts than C. plant. It is sometimes in dense clumps
feet across. The young shoots are very numerous in
proportion to the flowering stems. This species is never
exposed, but grows in the old leaves, (not in Swamp) amidst
the shade of sprouting stumps & young brush wood.
I think the seed is also somewhat different from
C. plant. but as I have already observed I was too late
for that species which presented only the naked rachis.
I took more than usual pains to get you a good set
of my plant, and had you seen the specimens I believe
you would have been well contented; but I find to my
great disappointment, that all the seeds, in any
degree of maturity, drop from the spikes in the
process of drying. I firmly believe that this is not to be
prevented by any care, in advanced specimens, & in a
very young state the perigynium does not exhibit its
characteristic form. I have preserved all the fruit & you
must glue it upon the papers near the spikes which will answer
every practical purpose. tho' the beauty of the specimens is destroyed.

You will at once see that they are not of the "Correct pocket" order
& I think you will give me credit for some pains tho' the
result does not come up to my expectation. Mr. Dewey has 6
specimens from me, & has sowed some seed (or rather I did)
at Rochester, where I hope the species may here after
be found. I found very little C. Hitchcock as the
wretched weather prevented my exploring far from home.
I have got a few spec. of Streptopus tenuisus Mt.
they are too forward, being in seed, one however, they
the flower & this is destined for your Herb. This locality
is also chopped & devoted to the fire this fall. Schabod!
C. blanda. Dew. which he considers the C. conidea. Muhl. is
certainly distinct from C. anceps, which it nevertheless
strongly resembles. The long grass leaves & some other particulars
are very striking. I know & distinguish it readily growing.
Prof. Dewey treats me with much kindness. I confess I cannot
distinguish all his species. I strongly suspect his C. collecta
is only C. nova angliae, but he says the latter is always
bistigmatus. (2) Of the Scoparia group, I distinguish
readily C. straminea, with the large winged fruit,
& Scoparia with the narrower, also perhaps from its general
form (if constant) C. festucacea & Muhl. C. cephalop.
& C. muricata are only disting. by the Prof. himself by the
comparative length of the scale & its mucronate apex.
I confess I am not satisfied here. Dewey's C. conidea is
no doubt distinct enough. I do not remember to have seen
your plant. I have never met with this growing. C. alba
var. setif. Dew. says is C. pauperula Mt. Dewey's C. tetan.
with the blighted smutty fruit resembles exactly Schk's figure
but seems to me very near C. oligocarpa. The specimens
of C. obtusa look a little (a very little) different from C. multiflora
but I cannot discover a character. The Prof. says that they
are readily disting. when growing, even by young Botanists. My
hope he says you have lots of C. decomposita, which I never saw
before. You had better look out this, or we shall scarcely
meet in peace. I talked to Dew. about a natural arrangement of

